

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 MCT-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, PLO, UNGA

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL PLO VISIT TO THE GDR

1. THE LEADER OF THE OL'S POLITICAL SECTION, FAROUK KADDOUMI, VISITED THE GDR SEPTEMBER 20, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS. HIS HOST WAS POLITBUERO MEMBER HERMANN AXEN WITH WHOM KADDOUMI HELD "WIDERANGING TALKS" ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. INCLUDED WERE THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, INCLUDING THE BLOCKADE OF THE LEBANESE COAST BY ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPATION BY ISRAELI FORCES OF SOUTHERN PARTS OF LEBANON, AND THE CONTINUED NEED FOR WIDER RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AS THE "ONLY LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." THE MEETINGS RESULTED IN AN EXPRESSION OF GDR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PLO IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF LEBANON FREE FROM THE INTER-

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VENTION OF "OUTSIDE FORCES."

2. KADDOUMI ALSO MET WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER WHO PROMISED SUPPORT FOR THE PLO POSITION ON THE "PALESTINE QUESTION" AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS WITH AXEN WERE THE LEADER OF THE PLO "INFORMATION BUREAU" IN THE GDR, NABIL KULEILAT AND PAUL MARKOWSKI, HEAD OF THE SED'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE PLO HAS HAD A LOCAL OFFICE FOR SOME TIME IN THE GDR WHICH OCCASIONALLY PUTS ON EXHIBITS DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. ONE SUCH EXHIBIT WAS HELD AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR IN MARCH, 1975. THE GDR SUPPORT ANNOUNCED AS A RESULT OF THE KADDOUMI VISIT DOES NOT REPRESENT A CHANGE IN PREVIOUSLY-EXPRESSED GDR ATTITUDES. COOPER

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